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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) An automated communication system for communicatively connecting a user by means of a communications device to a spacecraft, comprising:

a port adapted to accept a call related to a specific spacecraft from the user and having a machine readable call management program, the call management program adapted to respond to a calling number that includes a spacecraft specific identifier and adapted to automatically search for the spacecraft specific identifier in a database of at least one selected ground earth station, wherein the call management system is further adapted to terminate the call upon determining that the spacecraft specific identifier is not in the database, wherein the call management program provides prompts to the user's communications device requesting transmission of a digit related to a specific terminal site in the specific spacecraft for connection to the user's communications device.

2. (Original) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the ground earth station is adapted to communicate with at least one known satellite in an earth orbit responsive to the call received from the port upon finding the spacecraft specific identifier in the database, the at least one known satellite adapted to retransmit the ground earth station communications to the specific spacecraft for reception by a dedicated receiver in the spacecraft so as to establish a communications link between the user and the specific spacecraft.

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3. (Original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein user access to the port is effected by transmission of a ten digit number to the port.
4. (Original) The communication system of claim 3 wherein the ten digit number includes a seven digit number associated with a specific spacecraft.
5. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the call management program initiates simultaneous communications with at least three satellites in a global search for a response from the specific spacecraft.
6. (Original) The communication system of claim 5 wherein the three satellites serving global regions include the AOR-W, POR, and IOR satellites.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) An automated communication system for communicatively connecting a user by means of a communications device to a spacecraft, comprising:
a port adapted to accept a call related to a specific spacecraft from the user and having a machine readable call management program, the call management program adapted to respond to a calling number that includes a spacecraft specific identifier and adapted to automatically search for the spacecraft specific identifier in a database of at least one selected ground earth station, wherein the call management system is further adapted to terminate the call upon determining that the spacecraft specific identifier is not in the database, wherein the ground earth station is adapted to communicate with at least one known satellite in an earth orbit

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responsive to the call received from the port upon finding the spacecraft specific identifier in the database, the at least one known satellite adapted to retransmit the ground earth station communications to the specific spacecraft for reception by a dedicated receiver in the spacecraft so as to establish a communications link between the user and the specific spacecraft and The communication system of claim 2 wherein the call management program provides prompts to the caller requesting transmission of a digit related to a specific site in the specific spacecraft for connection to the caller.

9. (Currently Amended) An automated communication system for communicatively connecting a caller by means of a communications device to a spacecraft, comprising:

a port for accepting a call from the communications device related to a specific spacecraft from the caller and having a machine readable call management program, the call management program being responsive to a calling number that includes a spacecraft specific identifier and automatically effecting a communication to three ground earth stations responsive thereto;

the ground earth stations effecting communication with at least three known satellites in an earth orbit responsive to the received communication from the port; and

the satellites retransmitting the ground earth station communications to the specific spacecraft for reception by a dedicated receiver in the spacecraft, thereby establishing a communications link from the caller to the specific spacecraft, wherein the call management program provides prompts to the caller requesting transmission of a digit related to a specific site in the specific spacecraft for connection to the caller.

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10. (Currently Amended) A method of processing global communications between a ground station, a plurality of global satellite systems and a specific spacecraft using a software system, the method including the steps of:

assigning a spacecraft specific identifier to the spacecraft;

initiating a communications with the specific spacecraft by accessing at least one operators database for the spacecraft and the satellite system upon entering a single calling number that includes a spacecraft specific identifier; and

performing a database lookup using the spacecraft identifier to determine a log-in status of the spacecraft, if the spacecraft is not logged into the operators database then terminating the initiation of communications, wherein the operators database provides prompts to a caller requesting transmission of a digit related to a specific site in the specific spacecraft for connection to the caller.

11. (Original) The method of processing global communications of claim 10, where the spacecraft is logged into the operators database, further comprising:

outdialing at least one access number for at least one of the satellite systems and the spacecraft ID from the at least one operators database;

generating a successful connection signal; and

initializing a system port to process a new call.

12. (Original) The method of processing global communications of claim 11 wherein access to the port is effected by transmission of a ten digit number to the port.

13. (Original) The method of processing global communications of claim 12 wherein the ten digit number includes a seven digit number related to the specific spacecraft to be called.

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14. (Original) The method of processing global communications of claim 11, wherein the outdailing step includes initiating simultaneous communications with at least three satellites with the operators database in a global search for a response from the specific spacecraft.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The communication system of claim 3 wherein the single ten digit telephone number is viewably presented on at least one wallet sized card, the card being presentable to a user.

17. (Original) The communication system of claim 3 wherein the single ten digit telephone number initiates communication with a spacecraft through terrestrial telephonic communications to the port.

18. (Original) The communication system of claim 2 wherein caller access enables communication with the spacecraft by means of facsimile transmission.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for processing global communications between a ground station, a plurality of global satellite systems and a specific spacecraft using a software system responsive to the satellite systems, the system comprising:

means for assigning a spacecraft specific identifier to the spacecraft;

means, responsive to a user and to identifier assignment, for initiating a communications with the specific spacecraft by accessing at least one operators database for the

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spacecraft and the satellite system upon entering a calling number that includes a spacecraft specific identifier; and

means, responsive to communications initiation, for performing a database lookup using the spacecraft identifier to determine a log-in status of the spacecraft, if the spacecraft is not logged into the operators database, then terminating the initiation of communications, wherein the operators database provides prompts to a caller requesting transmission of a digit related to a specific site in the spacecraft for connection to the caller.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means, responsive to the spacecraft being logged into the operators database, for outdialing at least one access number for at least one of the satellite systems and the spacecraft ID from the at least one operators database;

means, responsive to outdialing the access number, for generating a successful connection signal; and

means, responsive to the connection signal, for initializing a system port to process a new call.